

It's time for a burnished, bittersweet Alpine drive

PROVO — One of the greatest days of our year is the annual fall drive around the Alpine Loop circling Timpanogos when the leaf colors are at their peak. It has come and gone again, with the twinge of sadness that it is over.

We never go on a weekend. Pick another day, if possible, until and unless everyone starts to go in the middle of the week. This Alps of America bit of aerial highway is perfectly safe for the prudent driver, but it is narrow and twisting with one or two horseshoe curves that would cramp a horse, and it's never been any fun for me to pass a million cars on a Sunday — especially when you're on the outside.

I well remember the day years ago when I wrote a lyrical story about it that appeared in Sunday morning's paper. It seems all Utah Valley read it, climbed in their cars and started around the loop. An accident blocked the road near the top. Cars were stacked up in both directions for miles. And everyone seemed to blame me and my lyrical feature.

We always gamble on the red and the gold. Maple and oak turn red (oak really rust), and aspen become gold. This year the reds were perfect, the gold not quite complete. You pay your money and takes your chances.

This year we started out to look for the beaver dams near the summit. There was one difference. Arthritis and a cane, I found, are not the best mountain-climbing combination. It was the first time I ever hunted beaver dams with arthritis and a cane. I didn't find them.



AS IT LOOKS
TO LUKE

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Am I bitter? Let's be frank; I'm not shouting for joy. But I've climbed a lot of mountains and walked a lot of free-striding miles. Let's leave it at that, for now.

We passed the campground where last year we saw a magnificent big deer. We had wondered at the time — would he still be there this year? But even if he was, we didn't stop to look.

At the summit of the loop the old elevation sign is gone. A little snooping brought to light the U.S. Geological Survey marker with its little circular brass plate. The altitude at the top of the summit on the loop road is 8,060 feet. There are undoubtedly higher passes in Utah. Colorado has a dozen. But the Alpine Loop Summit is ours.

Timpanogos is our own special mountain looming into the sky. If I never climb it again, and I undoubtedly will not, it's mine. It's mine the same as it is for anyone who has triumphantly stood atop its 11,750-foot summit.

Which brings us to the point that Timp is really not a very high mountain. Some may deem that blasphemy, but it's true. It's not even the highest in the Wasatch range. Mt. Nebo to the south, to the ever-lasting heartbreak of the Provo Chamber of Commerce and Timp lovers everywhere, is 22,950 — a full 200 feet higher. And there are many, many peaks in the Uintas higher than either. (King's Peak, named after a government surveyor, is the highest in Utah at nearly 14,000.)

But Timp will always be my mountain, and for countless others too. I gladly share it with anyone.

Lest I give you the impression I used to

Nebo community school courses to fit most inte

SPRINGVILLE — Nebo School District is sponsoring community schools, recreation programs and adult high school classes in Springville, Payson, Santaquin and Spanish Fork.

Classes in Spanish Fork and Springville begin this week.

Community school classes offered in both cities are aerobics, calligraphy, computer, guitar, jogging, oil painting, doll making, Spanish and word processing.

Spanish Fork classes include auto hobby shop, auto maintenance, clogging, comparative tailoring, complete fitness, driver education, financial planning, hunter safety, interior design, knitting, photography, portrait painting, social dance, tumbling, typing, upholstery, weight control, weight lifting, western riding and wood carving.

Classes in Springville include arts and crafts, behavior modification in weight control and smoking, candy making, Christmas gifts, drawing, estate and financial planning, fly tying, gymnastics, martial arts — karate, Oriental cooking, racquetball, sewing designer jeans, watercolor, welding and weightlifting for women.

For more information, contact the community school directors: Spring-

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Contest seeks woman fitness

PROVO — The search is on for the most physically fit woman in Utah. For the second year in a row, Utah women are invited to compete for the title of Utah's Most Physically Fit Female, and for more than \$7,000 in prizes.

At 9:30 p.m. each Saturday night through Nov. 3, contestants will appear on the stage of The Palace in Provo competing in a directed aerobic dance routine. The winners and runners-up of the weekly contests will be eligible for the contest finals on Nov. 10.

Winners of the five weekly preliminary competitions will receive a \$100 cash prize. The winner of the contest finals will receive two round-trip tickets to Acapulco via Western Airlines, a \$500 cash prize and a two-year membership to the Bob Barrow Karate/Nautilus Fitness Center.

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Alpine group offers chamber c

AMERICAN FORK — The Alpine Area Chamber Music Society will present its fall concert Monday at 7:30 p.m.

The 25 musicians, under the direction of Leon Honey, will perform in Studio C in the Utah Pageant of the Arts Center, 454 N. Center.

Soloists will include Rex Helm, lute; D'Ann Loomis, violin; and Hon-

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PROVO — A symposium on nutrition and cancer will be held at Brigham Young University Wednesday in the Wilkinson Center Ballroom.

The public is welcome to attend the conference, which is being co-sponsored by BYU's College of Biology and Agriculture and Cancer Research Center and by the American Cancer Society's Utah division.

The keynote address will be given at 1:30 p.m. by Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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